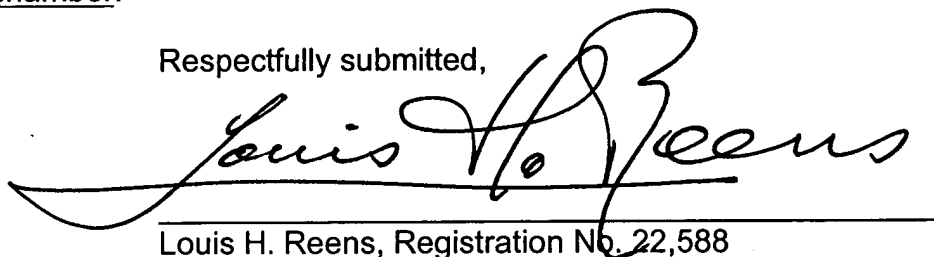


June 13, 2001

[22] 21.(Amended) Method for milking animals using [a device according to one of claims 1-20,] a device for milking animals wherein at least one milking stall has means (1, 2, 3) for extracting milk, means (3, 4) for de-aerating the milk which has been extracted and means (6) for conveying de-aerated milk to a milk tank (11) for storage for a prolonged period, and wherein the milk is transported within a closed chamber inside the milk tank to a remote site where the milk is discharged from the milk tank, the improvement comprising the step, characterized in that, after the milk tank (11) has been emptied [and, if appropriate, cleaned,] the closed chamber [storage volume] (12) is connected to subatmospheric pressure in order to reduce [minimize] the storage volume of the closed chamber.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Louis H. Reens", written over a horizontal line.

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